

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Please vote YES on HB 2844 so that beavers will no longer have "predatory animal" status in Oregon. Before recent study about beavers, I knew that they were fascinating to watch because I had had the exciting opportunity to watch them move in and out of a lodge. I also knew that they upset some homeowners a lot. What I didn't know until recently: 1) beavers help protect us from the damage wildfires cause 2) beavers help improve drinking water quality and stream temperatures, and 3) beavers provide habitat for baby salmon species that are at risk of disappearing. We need beavers at least as much as they need us! Beavers really need to be managed like Oregon's other wildlife--by wildlife experts. Oregonians are smart; when offered guidance, they can learn to protect their property and crops from beavers in one of several non-lethal ways.

Sincerely, Georgia Wier